



FULL COUNCIL

Monday 7 July 2025

Subject: Adoption of the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Contact Officer:

Nev Brown
Senior Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer

nev.brown@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S): To adopt the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

This work is a duty under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Regulation 18A of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, stipulates that a neighbourhood plan must be made (adopted) within 8 weeks of the referendum, which is to be held on 26 June 2025. This requirement will be met if the Council adopts the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) at its meeting on 7 July 2025.

Financial: FIN/40/26/MT/MK

For every neighbourhood plan (NP) successful at examination the Council receives a grant of £20k from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help support its neighbourhood planning role in the district. A grant of £20k has already been received for the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan (RNP).

Staffing:

Internal resources are in place to deal with neighbourhood planning.

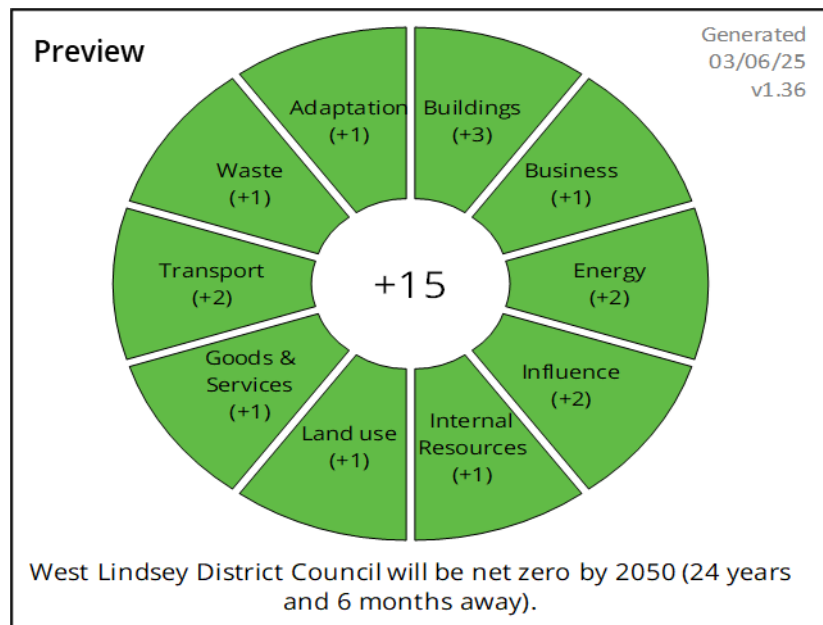
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The RNP has been examined under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations for any issues relating to equality and diversity.

Data Protection Implications: n/a

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

The RNP received positive outcomes when it was evaluated using the Council's Climate, Environment, and Assessment tool. Please see below. The RNP scored well in terms of enhancing green/blue infrastructure and working with the local community and partners.



The RNP has been the subject of a Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessments Screening Report which concluded that the RNP would be unlikely to give rise to any significant effects on protected sites.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

The RNP seeks to protect and create safe and accessible open spaces and active travel routes for residents to enjoy.

Health Implications:

The RNP expects developments to provide a high standard of amenity for existing and future users and to have regard to amenity expectations of neighbouring users.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Reepham Neighbourhood Plan | West Lindsey District Council](#)

Risk Assessment : n/a

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

☒

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

☒

No

☐

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval to adopt (make) the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the RNP's successful referendum which was held recently.

2. Background

- 2.1 NPs were introduced in the Localism Act 2011. They are important and powerful tools that give parish and town councils the statutory planning powers to shape how their communities develop. A NP is a document written by parish/town councils that sets out planning policies for a parish area which are used to help decide planning applications.
- 2.2 There are legal steps to creating a NP which must be followed, and they are: area designation, plan preparation, consultation, examination, referendum, and finally adoption (making). At each step, West Lindsey District Council strongly supports parish/town councils with their NPs. Currently, West Lindsey has 26 adopted NPs covering a large part of the district.
- 2.3 Following a NP's successful referendum, it is a requirement that the NP should be adopted by Full Council for it to formally become part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for that NP area alongside the Local Plan. As part of the Development Plan, the RNP will be given full weight in helping determine future planning applications within Reepham parish. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 2.4 Regulation 18A of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, stipulates that a neighbourhood plan must be made (adopted) within 8 weeks of the referendum, which was held on 26 June 2025. This requirement will be met if the Council adopts the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) at this meeting.

3. Decision & Reasoning

- 3.1 Reepham Parish Council (PC), as the qualifying body, received Council approval in July 2017 to prepare the RNP. The RNP was submitted by the PC to the Council for consultation and examination during 2024 and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.
- 3.2 The Council, in agreement with the PC, appointed an independent examiner to examine whether the RNP met the basic conditions required by legislation and if it should proceed to referendum.
- 3.3 The Examiner's Report concluded that the RNP met the basic conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the RNP should proceed to a referendum. The RNP was examined alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and was prepared in

accordance with EU obligations or Convention rights. The examination involved a hearing which was held on 25 September 2024 at Reepham Village Hall.

3.4 The Examiner's Report was considered under the Council's delegated powers, and it was agreed that the RNP should proceed to a referendum and if successful should be recommended for adoption (making) by the Council.

3.5 The RNP referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held on 26 June 2025 in Reepham and posed the question:

'Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Reepham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

3.6 At the referendum ??% of residents who voted were in favour of the RNP. Legislation requires that the Council must make the NP if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of it. Greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the RNP being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.

The results of the referendum were:	Votes Recorded	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	126	86.3%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	20	13.7%

Electorate	742
Ballot Papers Issued	146
Turnout	19.68%

3.7 In accordance with national planning guidance, an adopted (made) RNP should be given full weight in the determination of planning applications within the parish area.

3.8 NPs have given many of West Lindsey's local communities the tools to help protect and enhance their areas. West Lindsey performs well in terms of NP coverage and this should continue. In addition to its 26 made NPs, West Lindsey currently has 16 NPs in preparation, 8 under review, and also around 40 areas that are suitable for future NPs .

3.10 For the latest on NPs in West Lindsey please go to:

[Neighbourhood planning | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning)

4. Recommendation:

4.1 That Members formally agree to adopt (make) the Reepham Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.